

## REMARKS

The last Office Action of July 16, 2001 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11 and 18-21 are pending in the application. Claims 13-17 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-9, 11 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph as failing to describe subject matter in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention.

### REJECTION OF CLAIM 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is now rejecting the claims, asserting that applicant's description is lacking in disclosure for the invention as claimed.

The Examiner's position seemed to arise out of applicant's argument made in a prior request for reconsideration, where the applicant distinguished the prior art which disclosed a holding element. The holding element was not only

attached in a significantly different way as set forth in applicant's request for reconsideration but also showed that it was a C-Ring.

Now the Examiner has postulated, if applicant distinguishes its claimed holding element from the C-ring in the cited reference, applicant's description is non-enabling. This postulation is fallacious since the Examiner seems to say that applicant has not shown that its holding element is not a C-ring.

Even though the Examiner seems to invite applicant to disprove something not part of the invention, applicant's description is clear on this point.

On page 9, line 20 bridging page 10, lines 1 –7, the description points out what happens during the crimping operation. Thus the arcuate portions of the holding element dig into the material of the pipe. After removal of the press tool, a slight recoil occurs with the arcuate "teeth" remaining dug into the metal pipe, thereby realizing a tight fitting connection.

The following further pages are referenced to show the description is very clear on the matter of the holding element.

On page 3 line 20, the description recites that the holding element is secured to the socket and cold formed together with the socket.

On page 4, line 17, the holding element is described as including a free edge of a small diameter for penetration into the portion of the metal pipe.

On page 5, line 3, the holding element is described as a stepped sleeve.

On page 5, line 22, the holding element is in the form of an axially slotted sleeve.

Nowhere in the description is there a reference to the holding element being a C-ring. Proving that there is no C-ring can thus only be accomplished by showing that no C-ring is described and by further showing that the holding element is described, for example, as being cold formed together with the socket or as a sleeve.

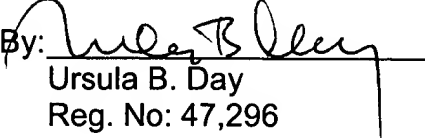
Applicant's description fully supports the claims as amended. For these reasons, the Examiners' determination that the description is not enabling for the invention as claimed is incorrect.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph is thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview. Also, applicant has furnished a model to the undersigned which the undersigned is prepared to show the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Ursula B. Day  
Reg. No: 47,296

Date: October 11, 2001  
350 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 3220  
New York, N.Y. 10118  
(212)244-5500  
UBD:af